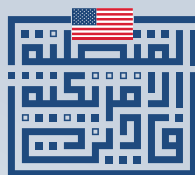



U.S. Embassy  
Abu Dhabi



U.S. Consulate  
General Dubai

## Your Guide to Study in the United States of America



 USEmbassyAbuDhabi

 USAinUAE

 USAinUAE





2018– 2019

Dear Prospective Student,

The United States has thousands of accredited colleges and universities well known for their quality, flexibility, diverse programs of study and useful structure for graduate studies. More than one million international students from around the world are furthering their higher education in the United States today and there are options available to meet everyone's needs.

Information and advice on studying in the United States are available to you through over 400 EducationUSA advising centers in 170 countries worldwide. EducationUSA Advisers are available to help you and your family with the process of choosing and applying to U.S. colleges and universities.

The mission of EducationUSA advising centers is to promote U.S. higher education around the world by offering free, accurate, comprehensive, and current information about educational institutions in the United States.

EducationUSA Centers, such as the ones located in the U.S. Embassy in Abu Dhabi and the U.S. Consulate General in Dubai, each has a library that includes university catalogs, handouts, guidebooks, and other resources that will help you choose the best university, college, or community college for you. All centers have trained staff who can answer your inquiries in person, by telephone, or e-mail.

Selecting the right university or college is a crucial life decision and will influence your entire career. It is important that you take your time when researching your options. No matter what path you choose to follow in higher education, we wish you success.

Good luck with your applications!

The EducationUSA Team  
U.S. Embassy, Abu Dhabi  
U.S. Consulate General, Dubai



### **U.S. Embassy, Abu Dhabi**

Tel: +971-2-414-2245

Email: [EducationUSAAD@state.gov](mailto:EducationUSAAD@state.gov)

Website: <https://ae.usembassy.gov/education-culture/study-usa/>

### **U.S. Consulate General, Dubai**

Tel: +971-4-309-4142

Email: [EducationUSADubai@state.gov](mailto:EducationUSADubai@state.gov)

Website: <https://ae.usembassy.gov/education-culture/study-usa/>

Hours: Sunday – Thursday, 9:00am-5:00pm

No walk-in services provided, by appointment only

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**U.S.Embassy Abu Dhabi**



**U.S. Consulate Dubai**



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## EducationUSA Advising Centers in the United Arab Emirates

The EducationUSA Advising Centers at the U.S. Embassy and Consulate are certified EducationUSA advising centers affiliated with the United States Department of State. EducationUSA centers promote U.S. higher education around the world by offering free, comprehensive, objective and timely information about educational opportunities in the United States and guidance to qualified individuals on how to best access those opportunities.



EducationUSA Advising Centers do not endorse or rank any college or university, nor do they endorse services provided by companies or organizations in the areas of test preparation, admissions, placement, language training or visa procurement.

### **Services Available from EducationUSA Advising Centers Include:**

- College counseling and guidance
- Standardized test information (i.e. TOEFL iBT, IELTS, SAT, ACT, etc.)
- Bulletins, handouts and education-related publications
- Study in the USA Presentations
- Pre-departure orientations

This booklet provides preliminary information on study in the United States. For more information about EducationUSA Advising Offices affiliated with the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, please see <http://educationUSA.state.gov>

# Studying in the United States

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### 1. What is the structure of U.S. higher education?

Higher education in the U.S. is comprised of undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Undergraduate programs generally grant associate's degrees (two years) and bachelor's degrees (four years). Master's degrees and doctoral degrees are conferred at the graduate level.

Level	Year in School	U.S. Degree	UAE Equivalent
<b>High School</b>	Grade 9 - Freshman Grade 10 - Sophomore Grade 11- Junior Grade 12 - Senior	High School Diploma	General Secondary Examinations Certificate
<b>Under-Graduate</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Year - Freshman 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year - Sophomore 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year - Junior 4 <sup>th</sup> Year - Senior	Associate's Degree  Bachelor's Degree	Bachelor's Degree
<b>Graduate</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Year 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year 3-8 Years	Master's Degree Ph.D	Master's Degree Ph.D

### 2. Are “colleges” and “institutes” in the U.S. as good as “universities”?

Degree-granting institutions, accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-approved accrediting organization, can be referred to by any of these terms. Colleges and institutes are not inferior to universities. As a general rule, colleges tend to be smaller than universities and may only offer undergraduate degrees, while universities offer graduate degrees. Institutes often specialize in certain fields such as business, engineering and art.

### 3. What is a community college?

Community colleges provide two-year associate's degree programs as well as technical and vocational programs. They can be public or private institutions and are sometimes called junior colleges or two-year colleges. Tuition costs are often lower at two-year institutions, and many have articulation/twinning agreements to allow students in transfer programs to move easily into the third year of a

bachelor's degree program at a university. A growing number of international students choose to study at community colleges.

#### **4. When do I begin my search for universities in the States?**

It is recommended that you begin your search 12-18 months before your intended departure date. For example if you plan to start study in the U.S. in September 2019, you should begin your search in June/July of 2018 or earlier.

#### **5. How do I begin my search?**

Ask yourself a few questions:

- What do I want to study?
- Does my secondary school coursework prepare me for the demands of this major?
- Can I meet admission requirements?
- What kind of environment do I want to live in? (Large city, small town, cold climate, close to family, etc.)
- Do I want to go to a small (Under 5,000 students), medium (10,000+students) or large (20,000+students) school?
- What is my budget and how much can my family afford?
- Do I want to go to a private or public institution?
- Do I want to attend a university that has services for international students?

There are some excellent websites that can help narrow your search. Information on college/university search engines is available under Research your options – Research and Narrow your choices at:  
<https://www.EducationUSA.state.gov>

#### **6. Can you give me a list of the top schools in business?**

Many ranking lists are created by magazines and other publications. No list has official status or is endorsed by the U.S. government. Rankings are likely to be subjective and are generally based on a wide range of criteria that do not necessarily include academic standards. The more established rankings may give you a starting point for your decision; however, the “best” college or university for you will be the best college to fit your needs including how you feel about a program’s potential to meet your needs.



## 7. How many universities should I apply to?

If you have conducted thorough research with the scholarship Academic Adviser or high School counselor and/or an Education Adviser, you will probably need to apply only to 6-10 institutions.

## 8. What documents must I submit for admission to U.S. colleges and universities?

Individual institutions set their own admission requirements and application procedures. Check college/university websites and/or printed application materials for details. You may be required to submit the following items before universities evaluate your application:

- Completed application form
- Application fee (No cash! Most schools prefer a certified check or international money order, or through a credit card)
- Official copy of your academic transcripts stamped by the Ministry of Education/Higher Education. If the transcript is not in English, then it needs to be translated by a Ministry of Education/ Higher Education-approved translator and then stamped by the Ministry of Education/Higher Education
- Personal statement
- Two or three letters of recommendation (from teachers/school counselors)
- Financial documents proving you have adequate funds, or a scholarship to study in the U.S.
- Official standardized test scores sent directly to the university from the testing company (TOEFL iBT/IELTS/SAT/ACT/GMAT/GRE, etc.)

**Note:** All items must be submitted according to application deadlines set by the college. Deadlines can range anywhere from 3 to 9 months before classes start.

## 9. Which standardized tests will I be required to take?

- Generally speaking, the TOEFL iBT or IELTS is required of all international applicants, regardless of the intended field or level of study.

- Undergraduate students are often required to take the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT. Some competitive institutions require scores from the SAT Subject Tests.

- With the exception of GMAT for MBA programs, graduate students are almost always required to take the GRE General Test. A few graduate programs will require scores from the GRE Subject Tests in addition to the GRE General Test.

- You need a strong command of both spoken and written English. If an applicant cannot speak English, then that individual would need to enroll in an



Intensive English or English as a Second Language (ESL) program and achieve a designated level of proficiency prior to matriculation.

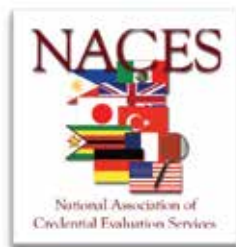
- Always check university websites for specific details on standardized test requirements.

**10. I would like to take a preparation course for a standardized test (TOEFL iBT, IELTS, SAT, GRE, etc.). Do you offer these classes at the Embassy/Consulate?**

The U.S. Embassy/Consulate does not provide classes for the public. There may be some language schools or institutes in your area that offer preparation courses. Most students preparing for a standardized test purchase study guides at local bookstores. There are also online preparation courses and practice tests. For more information contact the Education Advising Offices at the Embassy/Consulates.

**11. The university to which I am applying asked that my transcripts be reviewed by a credential evaluator. What does this mean?**

Universities might evaluate your grades and documents themselves, or they might require international applicants to pay an outside company, called a credential evaluator, to evaluate them.



Follow application directions provided on the institution's website. Some universities will indicate what credential evaluation company they want you to use.

For a list of evaluators, go to the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services website at <http://www.naces.org/members.htm>

**12. My application requires a notarized signature. How can I get my signature notarized?**

Some applications, mostly for medical schools, require an applicant's signature to be notarized. This service is offered through American Citizen Services at the U.S. Embassy/Consulates General. Details can be found at:

<https://ae.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/authentication/>

**13. When are the university application deadlines?**

For students interested in starting programs in August/September, deadlines may be as early as November of the previous year. Since every university has its own deadlines, it is best to locate these dates on each university's website. There are also universities that have rolling admissions where applications can be submitted throughout the year and decisions made on a monthly basis.

#### 14. How much does it cost to study in the U.S.?

##### Finances Per Year

Tuition	\$10,000-\$60,000
Personal Expenses	\$1,500-\$3,000
Room/board	\$4,000-\$15,000
Travel to USA	\$1,500-\$2,000
Book-Supplies	\$700-\$1,500
Health Insurance	\$800-\$1,000

*Total* *\$18,000-\$65,000*



#### 15. How can I make sure that the college or university that I have chosen is accredited in the United States?

Accreditation is the approval of colleges and universities by nationally recognized professional associations or regional accrediting bodies, to ensure quality and continuous improvement. There are usually two very important steps to make sure that the college or university that you have chosen is accredited regionally and professionally in the United States:

**Step One:** The college or university should be recognized regionally by the regional accrediting bodies, which are members of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA). Council for Higher Education Accreditation <http://www.chea.org>

Also, the U.S. Department of Education has an online database which provides the names of postsecondary institutions and programs accredited by a USDOE-approved accrediting organization. The database has multiple search functions, allowing search options by name, location, type of institution, accrediting association, etc. <http://www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation>

For more information, refer to the following link which will give you a list of CHEA Recognized Accrediting Organizations:

[http://chea.org/pdf/CHEA\\_USDE\\_AllAccred.pdf](http://chea.org/pdf/CHEA_USDE_AllAccred.pdf)

**Step Two:** The program that you are interested in studying in that college or university should be professionally accredited.

## Examples of Programmatic or Professional Accreditation organizations (Academic Programs)

<i>Business Programs:</i>	<a href="http://www.aacsb.edu">www.aacsb.edu</a> <a href="http://www.acbsp.org">www.acbsp.org</a>
<i>Engineering and Science Programs:</i>	<a href="http://www.abet.org">www.abet.org</a>
<i>Architecture Programs:</i>	<a href="http://www.naab.org">www.naab.org</a>
<i>Law Programs:</i>	<a href="http://www.americanbar.org">www.americanbar.org</a>
<i>Pharmacy Programs:</i>	<a href="http://www.aacp.org">www.aacp.org</a>
<i>Dentistry Programs:</i>	<a href="http://www.ada.org">www.ada.org</a>
<i>Medical Programs:</i>	<a href="http://www.aamc.org">www.aamc.org</a>
<i>Medical Residency Programs:</i>	<a href="http://www.ecfm.org">www.ecfm.org</a>
<i>Nursing Programs:</i>	<a href="http://www.aacnnursing.org">www.aacnnursing.org</a>
<i>Teacher Education Programs:</i>	<a href="http://www.caepnet.org">www.caepnet.org</a>

Additional information on accreditation: [www.educationusa.state.gov](http://www.educationusa.state.gov)

### **16. I went to university in the United States and I need to have my documents authenticated/attested. How do I do this?**

The Education Advising Offices at the U.S. Embassy/Consulates DO NOT authenticate/attest educational documents. To apply for authenticate/attest a university document, follow the directions listed at

<https://ae.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/local-resources-of-u-s-citizens/authentication/>

### **17. I need to get my U.S. degree certified/authenticated by the UAE Mission to the USA in Washington, DC. How do I do this?**

You should contact the UAE Cultural Division in Washington, D.C. to get your degree certified. Their website provides document certification regulations/requirements.

<http://www.uaecd.org/accrreditation-authentication-introduction>



### **18. I want to earn my degree online because I am unable to leave the UAE to study. How do I begin to search for a U.S. Department of Education-approved college/university?**

Distance Education is an increasingly popular way to study for everything from a short professional course to a graduate degree in the United States. Under the distance education model, students no longer attend classes in a classroom on a campus; instead, classes are delivered “from a distance” through the use



of technologies such as the Internet, satellite television, video conferencing, and other means of electronic delivery.

Studying for a degree using distance education requires students to have special qualities, including self-discipline and the ability to work on their own.

For advice and lists of regionally accredited online degree programs please visit <https://www.geteducated.com/> and [www.deac.org](http://www.deac.org)

If you are interested in distance education you will want to make sure that the college/university you enroll in is accredited by a U.S. Department of Education-approved accrediting organization. There are MANY online colleges and universities that are not recognized. If in doubt, contact an Education Advising Office for assistance when selecting programs.



# What Students Should Know

## Before Enrolling in Online/Distance Education

### Where are you thinking of enrolling?

- By whom is this institution accredited?
- Is the accrediting association recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or CHEA?

### What program are you thinking of enrolling in?

- Are there any residency requirements?
- What other institutions offer similar programs and do they grant the same credentials for similar work?
- How does the variety of courses offered compare with similar on-site programs?
- How are course materials made available to students?
- What arrangements have been made for me to complete any required laboratory requirements?

### Who designs, delivers and monitors the program?

- Who designs and delivers the program (and if they are different, how is the delivery controlled)?
- Where can the qualifications and current professional activities of the faculty be found in writing?
- What arrangements are made to ensure faculty-student and student-student interaction?

### Other expectations of the institution and available student services

- What academic, linguistic, and technical skills does the institution require for students enrolling in this program?
- What equipment must I have access to and how will the institution help me in any problems that arise concerning the interface between my equipment and their offerings?
- What counseling, career, financial aid, or other non-classroom services are provided for distance education students?
- Is there a student handbook for distance education students? If not, where are these issues addressed?
- What is the process for filing complaints?
- What is the institution's refund policy if I should have to withdraw from this program?

### Final check on the integrity of the degree

- How can I assure outsiders that the degree represents an assessment of my work rather than that of someone else?
- Where is there official representation of faculty qualifications, the program's course sequence and requirements, the nature of student/faculty interaction and assumptions about technical skills?

# Applying for a Student Visa to the United States



**It is very important to carefully plan your visa application process to ensure that you are prepared and have enough time before the start date of your studies.**

The following guidelines are intended to help you better prepare for the visa application process so it goes as smoothly as possible. All of this information and more is also available on our website:

<https://ae.usembassy.gov/education-culture/study-usa/>

1. After a university accepts your application, it will send you Form I-20, which is proof-of-acceptance to a specific program with a specific start date and provides your SEVIS number.
2. Log into [fmjfee.com](https://fmjfee.com) and pay the SEVIS fee of U.S.\$200 to activate your SEVIS number, which starts with the letter N and is followed by nine digits. Remember to print your receipt, which will be requested during your interview.
3. Make sure your passport and visa photo are ready to go. The passport must have at least six months validity remaining and at least one blank page. The visa photo must be taken within the last six months, 5cm x 5cm, on white background, with hairline visible, no glasses, and without modification.
4. Before you can schedule a visa interview, you must complete the Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application (DS-160) form located at [ceac.state.gov/genniv](https://ceac.state.gov/genniv) and print the confirmation page. If someone completes the form on your behalf, you must review the information, as you are legally responsible for the document as submitted. If this information is not filled out completely and accurately, it may delay your visa processing or result in a refusal.

5. Log into [usvisa-info.com](https://usvisa-info.com) to pay the visa application fee of U.S.\$160 and schedule the visa appointment. Student visas are a priority; the wait time is usually no more than a few days.
6. On the day of your interview, arrive at the embassy or consulate 15 minutes prior to your interview time. Bring any relevant documentation. Relax and be truthful with the officer.
7. At the time of the interview, Emirati students must pay a reciprocity fee of U.S.\$16. This fee is based on what the UAE government charges Americans for a similar visa. Students of other nationalities can consult the reciprocity tables available at [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov)
8. After a successful interview, the visa officer will most often give an estimated time for processing. Actual time may vary, so we recommend that you do not make non-refundable reservations until your visa is in hand.
9. If your application requires any additional documentation or administrative processing, make sure to follow the instructions provided at the time of the interview.



# Student Visa Application Tips

1. **Schedule an interview several months before you plan to depart** in some cases, it can take several months to receive a visa, so we always recommend you plan ahead and apply early. You can apply for the visa any time up to four months before your scheduled start date, although you cannot arrive in the United States until one month before your scheduled start date. If the next available appointment time is less than three weeks before your start date, you may apply for an emergency appointment after scheduling a regular appointment.



2. **Come prepared for the interview**, some visas are delayed when students do not bring the required documentation. To avoid this, make sure you bring the necessary documents:

## Application Package:

- Passport, valid for at least six months with at least one blank page
- Visa photo, taken within the last six months, 5cm x 5cm, on white background, with hairline visible, without glasses, and without modification
- Original Form I-20, issued by the institute/college/university in the United States
- Confirmation page from the Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application (DS-160) form
- SEVIS receipt, payable at [fmjfee.com](https://fmjfee.com)

## Supporting Documents:

- Scholarship letter or past three months of bank documents from the person or entity funding your studies

3. **Don't stress about the interview.** During the interview, the visa officer is interested in learning about your background, why you want to travel to the United States, why you selected your specific school and program, how you will pay for your education, and your general life goals. Arabic translation is available, if necessary. All nonimmigrant visa applicants must demonstrate that they meet the requirements of the visa category.

- 4. Expect delays.** It is not uncommon for visas to take up to three months to process. While the embassy will work to process your visa as quickly as possible, some delays cannot be avoided. At the end of the interview the visa officer will tell you the estimated time required for processing, but this is only an estimate, and processing times may vary. If you need your passport for travel to a third country, the visa officer will gladly return your passport after the interview and you can resubmit it later through Empost when the visa is ready. If more processing is required, the U.S. Embassy will return your passport at the time of the interview and provide information on how to resubmit it later for visa printing.

*For more information and answers to some frequently asked questions, Visit: <https://ae.usembassy.gov/education-culture/study-usa/>*

*For more information on visa interview payment and appointments, Check out [usvisa-info.com](https://usvisa-info.com) or call the Visa Services Call Center at 971-4-376-8311.*

# Application Timeline for Undergraduate Study in the USA

School Grade	What Needs to be Done
<b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve Grades</li> <li>2. Take PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude )</li> <li>3. Summer School (extra English and Math courses)</li> </ol>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Begin university search by visiting your high-school counselor or EducationUSA adviser</li> <li>2. Attend education fairs in your area (ask EducationUSA Adviser for a list)</li> <li>3. Take SAT(Scholastic Assessment Test) or ACT (American College Testing)</li> <li>4. Identify 6-10 universities you are interested in and contact them for information</li> </ol>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. September: Take TOEFL or IELTS</li> <li>2. October: retake SAT1or ACT</li> <li>3. Request letters of recommendation and transcripts</li> <li>4. November: Take SAT2 (subject test) 3 subjects</li> <li>5. December: Apply to 6-10 universities</li> </ol> <p>TOEFL: Test of English as a Foreign Language IELTS: International English Language Testing System</p>
<b>Application Deadlines</b>	<p>Early Decision and Early Action deadlines begin in November and the University of California system also has a November deadline <b>November 30-January1</b> while other colleges &amp; universities are <b>January up to March 1</b></p> <p>Rolling Admission: Means that the university or college keeps on accepting students until its classes are full.</p>

## **Junior Year – Grade 11**

### **September**

- Begin research on accredited colleges/universities by using the Internet, software, and reference books. Visit or call your School Counselor or Education Adviser.
- Take online career assessments, interest inventories and/or study skills courses.
- Talk with your School Counselor about your career assessment results.
- Take challenging coursework and focus on producing good results.
- Go to the TOEFL iBT website <http://www.ets.org/toefl> or the IELTS website <https://www.ielts.org/default.aspx> and take a practice,
- Sign up to receive weekly education related updates by sending an email request to join EducationUSA's e-list to <https://www.educationusa.info>, [educationusadubai@state.gov](mailto:educationusadubai@state.gov) or [or educationusaad@state.gov](mailto:educationusaad@state.gov) depending on your location. Email can include your name and confirmed email address.

### **October**

- Read online student newspapers from colleges/universities to acquire a different perspective on the institutions.
- Ask your School Counselor if individual representatives from colleges/universities will be visiting the UAE.
- Get the dates for possible College Fairs. Attend with your parents or friends and ask questions.

### **November**

- To enhance your perspective, pursue discussion with your School Counselor and with people you know who have studied in the U.S.
- Continue your online research, considering factors such as: field of study, quality of institution, ease of admission, location, size, cost, availability of financial aid, housing and international student services.
- Many schools of architecture, film, and the arts will require a portfolio of your work. If this is your area of interest, discover what needs to be in the portfolio you will send one. Begin your preparation.
- E-mail colleges/universities to request information/applications. Most applications are available online. Use the passport spelling of your name and use this spelling throughout the search/application process.



- Create a special e-mail account so that you can keep university correspondence organized. When creating your e-mail address, try to use your name as it appears in your passport.

## December

- Get SAT Reasoning Test information from the website: <http://sat.collegeboard.com> and review format and questions. Or visit the ACT webpage for more information: <http://www.act.org/>
- Take an online SAT Reasoning Test or ACT to build your test-taking skills.
- Continue your virtual visits, becoming more and more knowledgeable about application requirements, procedures, and costs. Learn what colleges/universities are looking for in a candidate. List the institutions that interest you most and why.

## January

- Review all the college/university materials you have been collecting and begin to narrow your list from the top 25 to the top 10.
- Discuss this list with your family and your School Counselor. Consider the cost of application fees as you decide on your top 5-10 choices.
- Consider at least one “safe” choice, which is a school you are sure you will be admitted to, particularly if you are applying to highly selective colleges/universities.
- Consider applying to summer programs and begin discussion with your family about possible summer visits to university campuses.

## February

- Decide which one of the SAT Reasoning or ACT Test dates best fits your schedule. (If you are planning to apply to colleges/universities that also require the SAT Subject Tests, then you’ll need to take the May SAT Reasoning Test and, at the latest, the December SAT Subject Tests.)
- Register online for the April ACT.
- Discuss with your family, how you will pay for the transportation, living expenses, and tuition/fees.
- Attend College Fairs and ask questions.
- If applicable, go online to research college/university sources of financial aid for international students and, with the help of your School Counselor or Education Adviser, discover if there are sources for financial aid available. Then, download the appropriate financial aid form/applications/materials.

- If you have been enrolled in more than one Secondary School, request that your previous school records be sent to your current School Counselor.

### **March**

- Register online for the May SAT Reasoning Test Inform your School Counselor of your plan.
- Register online for TOEFL iBT. or IELTS
- Continue virtual visits to your top choice colleges/universities and, if you intend to apply for financial aid, be sure to download their financial aid applications for international students.

### **April**

- Continue practice sessions for the SAT Reasoning Test or take the ACT
- Continue discussion with your School Counselor/Education Advisor about your college/university choices.

### **May**

- Take the SAT Reasoning Test.
- Begin to think about whom you wish to ask for the confidential letters of recommendation that will be sent to colleges/universities.

### **June**

- Look for opportunities to improve your English language skills and/or visit U.S. campuses over the summer.
- Take the ACT if you haven't done that yet.

## **Senior Year – Grade 12**

### **September**

- Carefully review your college application instructions and establish a timetable for the deadlines you will have to meet for each application.
- Make certain you are aware of policy/procedures for sending applications.
- Review your SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Tests, ACT, IELTS and TOEFL iBT results with your School Counselor to determine if you'll need to retake any of these examinations.
- If you need to retake a test, register online for the October SAT Reasoning Test, the TOEFL iBT, IELTS or register online for the SAT Subject Tests. If an essay is required for your application, begin your first draft.

- If you need to have confidential recommendations, give the appropriate forms to your School Counselor (Secondary School Report) and Teachers (Teacher Evaluation).

## **October**

- If a portfolio is required for the major you have chosen, select/organize samples of your work.
- Complete the essay for your applications. Make copies.
- Complete the applications using copies of the original forms and ask your School Counselor to look at them. Then, transfer the data to the original and be sure to make copies of the finished product. This includes online applications. Be sure to give your School Counselor your online application number. Make sure any writing is legible.
- If you intend to apply for aid, complete financial aid applications with your family. If you don't intend to apply for aid, ask your parents for their bank official to complete the International Student Certification of Finances Form, which guarantees that adequate funds are available for your educational needs, and include it with your application. Make copies of all documents.
- Make sure that your School Counselor has several copies of your official transcript from previously attended high schools. If English translations are necessary, get them done.
- Get dates for College Fairs/representatives traveling the region.

## **November**

- Submit your applications with fees (and portfolios if required) to the School Counseling Office by the end of November. Do not wait for the published university deadlines. Do NOT send cash.
- Be sure to request that your scores (TOEFL iBT, IELTS, SAT Reasoning Test ACT and, if applicable, SAT Subject Tests) are sent to all colleges and universities on your list.
- Check that confidential teacher recommendations have been sent to the School Counselor and college.
- Check to be certain that your High School has sent your official supporting documents to all the colleges/universities on your list.

## **December**

- If applicable, give your School Counselor the Mid-Year Report Form and request that it be sent at the end of the first semester/term.

- Be prepared to reply immediately to any requests for additional information from your colleges/universities.

### **January**

- Keep up a good standard of work in class since the final transcript will be sent at the end of the academic year.
- If there are any additional financial aid forms that have been left incomplete, be certain to finish and send them now. Make copies.
- Some institutions require interviews, so a representative might contact you in January or February.

### **February**

- Continue discussion with your family about the financial plan for your study.
- Initiate the visa application process (Refer to Visa section on page 10 )

### **March**

- If you applied to colleges/universities with rolling and/or open admission, you might be asked to send a deposit soon.

### **April**

- Many colleges/universities inform students this month as to whether or not they have been accepted.
- If more than one college accepts you, select your first choice with the help of your family and School Counselor and then notify the other universities that you do not plan to attend.
- Send your reply and deposit by the stated deadline.
- Keep your School Counselor aware of decisions and developments.
- If you have not done so already, you must begin the visa process now.

### **May**

- If you haven't heard from a university, ask your School Counselor to make contact with the office of admissions.
- If you have incomplete materials regarding acceptance and/or financial aid status, make contact with the office of admissions.
- Review pre-departure procedures as provided by the Education Advisor at the Embassy/ Consulate.
- Confirm housing at your first choice college/university.

## June

- Continue visa application process at the Embassy/Consulate.
- Remind your Secondary School that you wish to have your final transcript sent to your college/university and be certain to give the correct address.
- Once you have your visa, make travel arrangements so that you arrive on time for new student orientation. Do not arrive late.



# College Worksheet

Use the following worksheet to help organize your college search.

Characteristics	College One	College Two	College Three	College Four
Major				
Type of Institution				
Size				
Location				
Housing				
TOEFL iBT/IELTS				
SAT/ACT				
Cost				
MOHESR-approved				
ESL Program				
Deadline				



## Useful Websites

### COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SEARCH:

The College Board	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">http://www.collegeboard.com</a>
Peterson's	<a href="http://www.petersons.com">http://www.petersons.com</a>
The Big Future	<a href="http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org">http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org</a>
Common Application	<a href="http://www.commonapp.org">http://www.commonapp.org</a>
Women's Colleges	<a href="http://www.womenscolleges.org">http://www.womenscolleges.org</a>
Princeton Review	<a href="http://www.princetonreview.com">http://www.princetonreview.com</a>
Colleges That Change Lives	<a href="http://www.ctcl.com">http://www.ctcl.com</a>
Gradschools.Com	<a href="http://www.gradschools.com">http://www.gradschools.com</a>
National Center for Education Statistics	<a href="http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator">http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator</a>
Get Educated (Distance Learning)	<a href="http://www.geteducated.com">http://www.geteducated.com</a>
Online College Database	<a href="http://oedb.org/">http://oedb.org/</a>

## **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE:**

Intensive English USA -Institute of International Education

<http://www.intensiveenglishusa.org>

University & College Intensive English Programs

<http://www.uciep.org>

Voice of America – Learning English

<http://learningenglish.voanews.com>

American English – U.S. Department of State

<http://americanenglish.state.gov>

## **SUMMER CAMPS:**

Education Guide for international Students

<http://www.boardingschoolsusa.com>

Kids and Teen Summer Camps <http://www.mysummercamps.com>

Summer Camp Directory and Guide <http://www.summercamps.com>

Summer Session <http://summersession.com>

Peterson's Summer Camps and Programs

<http://www.petersons.com/college-search/summer-programs-camps-search.aspx>

## **BOARDING SCHOOLS:**

The Association of Boarding Schools <http://www.schools.com>

Education guide for international students of secondary school

<http://www.boardingschoolsusa.com>

Boarding School Review <http://www.boardingschoolreview.com>



## STANDARDIZED AND PROFESSIONAL TESTS:

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL iBT)	<a href="http://www.ets.org/toefl">http://www.ets.org/toefl</a>
International English Language Testing System (IELTS)	<a href="http://www.ielts.org">http://www.ielts.org</a>
ACT	<a href="http://www.act.org">http://www.act.org</a>
SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests (SAT)	<a href="http://www.collegeboard.com">http://www.collegeboard.com</a>
Graduate Record Examinations (GRE)	<a href="http://www.gre.org">http://www.gre.org</a>
General Management Admission Council (GMAT)	<a href="http://www.mba.com">http://www.mba.com</a>
Certified Public Accountant (CPA)	<a href="http://www.aicpa.org">http://www.aicpa.org</a>
Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)	<a href="http://www.ecfm.org">http://www.ecfm.org</a>
United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE)	<a href="http://www.usmle.org">http://www.usmle.org</a>
Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)	<a href="http://www.aamc.org">http://www.aamc.org</a>
Dental Admission Testing Program (DAT)	<a href="http://www.ada.org">http://www.ada.org</a>
United States Licensure for International Dentists	<a href="http://www.ada.org">http://www.ada.org</a>
Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Examination Committee (FPGEC)	<a href="https://nabp.pharmacy/programs/fpgec/">https://nabp.pharmacy/programs/fpgec/</a>
Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS)	<a href="http://www.cgfns.org">http://www.cgfns.org</a>
Law School Admission Test (LSAT)	<a href="http://www.lsac.org">http://www.lsac.org</a>

## FINANCES, FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

Free Application for Federal Student Aid	<a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">http://www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>
Mapping Your Future	<a href="http://www.mapping-your-future.org">http://www.mapping-your-future.org</a>
Salliemae	<a href="http://www.salliemae.com">http://www.salliemae.com</a>

## ACCREDITATION:

Explanation of Accreditation in the USA

<http://www.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/index.html>

U.S. Department of Education – Database

<http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx>

Council for Higher Education Accreditation

<http://www.chea.org/search/default.asp>

## **PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION**

Business Programs

[www.acbsp.org](http://www.acbsp.org) or [www.aacsb.edu](http://www.aacsb.edu)

Engineering and Science Programs

[www.abet.org](http://www.abet.org)

Architecture Programs

[www.naab.org](http://www.naab.org)

Law Programs

[www.americanbar.org](http://www.americanbar.org)

Pharmacy Programs

[www.aacp.org](http://www.aacp.org)

Dentistry Programs

[www.ada.org](http://www.ada.org)

Medical Programs

[www.aamc.org](http://www.aamc.org)

Medical Residency Programs

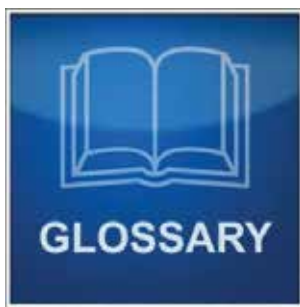
[www.ecfm.org](http://www.ecfm.org)

Nursing Programs

[www.aacnnursing.org](http://www.aacnnursing.org)

Teacher Education Programs

[www.caepnet.org](http://www.caepnet.org)



**Academic Adviser:** A member of the faculty who helps and advises students on academic matters.

**Academic Year:** The period of formal instruction, usually September to May; may be divided into terms of varying lengths – semesters, trimesters, or quarters.

**Accreditation:** This is a voluntary process by which educational institutions meet standards established by an accrediting body. The U.S. Department of Education maintains a database of approved colleges and universities who earned accreditation from national, regional, or professional and specialized accrediting organizations. Generally, Regional Accreditation is the most important.

**Associate's Degree:** The degree awarded after a two-year period of study towards a specific program; it can either be terminal or, in certain cases transferable (the first two years of a bachelor's degree).

**Bachelor's Degree:** Degree awarded upon completion of approximately four years of full-time study in liberal arts and sciences or professional subjects.

**College:** A postsecondary institution that provides an undergraduate education and, in some cases, master's level degrees. College, in a separate sense, is also a division of a university; for example, College of Business.

**Conditional Acceptance:** Tentative acceptance into a degree-seeking program, pending successful completion of stated requirements/conditions.

**Prerequisite:** Program or course that a student is required to complete before being permitted to enroll in a more advanced program or course.

**Quarter:** Period of study, approximately 10-12 weeks duration or one-quarter of the academic year.

**Registration:** Process in which students select courses to be taken during a quarter, semester or trimester.

**Semester:** Period of study approximately 15-16 weeks or one-half the academic year.

**SEVIS:** Student and Exchange Visitor Information System is a networked computer system set up in the United States to track information on non-immigrant international students and scholars attending school in the U.S.

**Transfer:** The process of moving from one college or university to another to complete a degree.

**Trimester:** Period of study consisting of approximately three equal terms of 16 weeks each during the academic year.

**Tuition:** The money an institution charges for instruction and training (does not include the cost of books, housing, etc.).

**University:** A large postsecondary institution that offers both undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

*Portions of Glossary and the location section is taken from  
If You Want to Study in the United States, Book 1: Undergraduate Study,  
a publication of the U.S. Department of State*

## Notes

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dotted lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a guide for handwriting practice. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.